

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

April 6, 1999

FROM: CAROL SHEARER
Acting County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Position on Pending State Legislation
SB 407 (Alpert) -- As Introduced February 12, 1999

RECOMMENDATION: Support SB 407. This bill would authorize a recognized and acceptable treatment method for infectious materials.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The National Institutes of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization recommended chemical disinfection for the inactivation of pathogenic agents. The U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration's blood borne pathogen standard requires the use of chemical disinfection of blood, blood products and other potentially infectious materials.

The California Medical Waste Management Act was enacted with the inclusion of specific approved treatment methods as acceptable means of rendering waste as non-hazardous solid waste. The Act inadvertently omitted from approved treatment technologies the proven and acceptable practice of inactivating infectious biological agents through chemical disinfection.

SB 407 would add to the list of approved treatment technologies the inactivation of infectious agents by chemical disinfection methods.

The Public Health Department recommends the Board of Supervisors support SB 407 because it would benefit the Public Health Laboratory and those at the County Medical Center. The bill provides for a safe and inexpensive alternative to disposing of treated infectious waste by allowing for sterilization and disposal into a public sewage system. SB 407 would make the California Medical Waste Management Act consistent with today's technology and safe practice procedures.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Darren Kettle

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors